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HENRIK IBSEN: *BRAND. TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE.*
By Miles M. Dawson. The Four Seas Co., Boston, 1916, Pp. 304.

Most readers of these lines know the Herford translation of Ibsen's *Brand*, which introduced the drama to English students. Herford's book has been used extensively in this country, and it seemed so good a translation to the Archer Brothers that they decided to incorporate it into their series, hesitating to undertake a rendering themselves. And the C. H. Herford translation is good, albeit we may often wish a certain word or verse had been rendered differently; but we bear in mind that the translator had before him one of the most difficult tasks a translator could have. As to whether this new translation will meet with equal favor—we shall see. The present writer believes that Mr. Dawson has succeeded in producing an English *Brand* which is eminently readable and often happy in the rendering of difficult places, and he hopes that he will find reward for the labors of the task involved in the use the book will receive. I am of the opinion, however, that the rendering often departs from the original unnecessarily and to the weakening of the speech and the altering of the poet's style in some cases. I shall here note the following:

	Sönnen
Far, her er spriker!	
	Bonden
	Her er sprækker!
(Translation, pp. 12-13)	The Son
	Father, here
Are rifts; the glacier must be tearing. . . .	
	The Peasant
And here's a wider!	
And again pp. 14-15.	
	Brand
Jeg må; jeg går en stormands bud.	
	Bonden
Hvad heter han?	
	Brand
Han heter Gud.	
	Bonden
Og hvad er du for noget?	
	Brand
	Prest.
	Bonden
Kanhænde det; men jeg ved bedst,	
at om du så var provst og bisp,	
så ligger du i dødsens gisp	
før dagen gryr, hvis du vil frem	
på bræns undergravne brem.	
Translation:	
	Brand
I must press on; I go to take	
A great man's message.	

The Peasant
And his name?
Brand

His name is God.

The Peasant
Be that the same,

What sort of man are you?

Brand
A priest.
The Peasant.

Just so! But though you be at least
A bishop, yet before the dawn,
You'll gasp in death if you go on
Along the drifts o'erhanging edge
As if upon a solid ledge.

In such a case as this "Just so!" is very different from what the minister said: "Kanhænde det;" the last line is added to the original and is, of course, unnecessary. Also the peasant does not ask Brand "what sort of man" he is, but: "What are you," "What may you be."

I would not have omitted the stage direction *lyttende* on p. 14 (on p. 4, *Samlede Værker*, III); it emphasises Brand's attitude at the moment. It is better than to add "Hark!" to the speech. And in the stage direction on p. 42 (*S. V.*, 29) Ibsen's words "standser midtveis på en fremspringende knart og ser ned i dybet" is lengthened out into something un-Ibsenian in the lines: stops midway of a crag which juts out over the gorge and, stepping to the edge, stands gazing down into it."

However it is possible that in my examination of parts of the text I have hit upon the few weak spots it has.

GEORGE T. FLOW.